

Dear Pearl,

9/15/72

In your opening graph of your 9/11, in response to the clips I'd sent you on dope, you said, "...I always take into consideration the slant of the publication - and China was so whitewashed as to still leave me suspecting something anyway."

Of course one should always consider the slant of the publication and the writers. But the same thing was testified to yesterday under oath by former Marine Corps Commandant Walt, hardly one of pro-China slant, and before a committee headed by Senator Eastland, who is one of the more virulent anti-China boys.

There is a political naivete in you that troubles me if you are to do something with the Kaplan-Vidal thing. Long ago I tried to get you to understand that which as a girl you should have learned. And here you are the mother of two teenagers. Whether they be good or bad as others see them, people do hold political views with sincerity. The revanchist Cubans in current news are an example. To me they are the wierdest nuts, but I know they believe. All that rabid stuff is to them reality.

Whether you approve or disapprove the present governments in Cuba and China, they hold to certain beliefs. In both cases, without regard to what has achieved so much attention recently, any informed person should know that to them both heroin in out. And if you would hew the "centerthal line, I would tell you that their political warfare is of an entirely different focus and direction.

I sent you only the most Establishmentarian sources, all anti- China. What slant is there that troubles you. I mean, I didn't send the Peoples' Daily or Revolution. You've got a good thing. I hate to see it blow inside your head. Or others toying with what is there.

Striso again. Frankly, from his first contact with me there was a strangeness that made me apprehensive. This is quite out of character for me. I'm always trusting everybody who should not be, alas. But you say apropos The Watergate, "Would be something if Striso's intimations are correct. Would you? i.e. ~~me~~ I have grist for the mill."

Why the elipsis? Some deep secret?

Unless it involves breach of confidence, I'd like to know what he is feeding you. On your Kaplan-Vidal thing it is garbage, like it or not. On this, who knows when you are so indirect? But let me tell you in advance that I don't regard it as another CIA operation. Nor as Cuban-Revanchist. Nor by those who pulled the JFK assassination.

Striso has figured in too many dubious things for me to be without at least curiosity. And I tell you bluntly if also indirectly that I have a personal interest in this Watergate seeming madness because of what one of the principals may have done to me in the past, a very costly thing. You are not, please, to repeat this to anyone. That there is a prima facie case does not persuade me there is a real case, but it does persuade me to remain alert and more than just interested in this farout news story.

So, in both our interests, I'd like to know what he is pumping down there to this trusting woman who seems so politically inattentive (not in the political-party sense). But mostly it is in yours. You'll get so bogged down in all that literary trash you'll lose a good thing.

For your information, on the China end, I've tested what I've sent you with what today is called an "old China hand", a friend who is also an experienced reporter whose experience includes years in China as a reporter and contact then with the men who run the country today. It is straight, Pearl.

As a mother you may be a bit unhappy about the prospect of being away from your kids for a year or so. Permit an older person to intrude a couple of opinions. If your kids think this mysterious "it" all kids of all eras conceive is in the U.S., let them find out pronto. They'll find a bit less official violence than in Mexico, if they are hep to that, but a society no less sick and dishonest. So, they'll be learning and growing, and they are at the ages where they should. The boy especially. He is becoming a man. So, this will help him do it with a head more straight. And you are more than entitled to a sabbatical. "It is past time for your husband to be assuming some of the load. This gives you a real chance. The kids will not be with a stranger. They are both at the age where they require some male association of at least authority symbolism. It distorts them to grow without some male association. I've seen this too often. So, it can be good for them and it gets them off your test and give you an overdue opportunity for individuality and creativity. Grab it, kid! There is so much you should be doing! You are doing you a great favor. Felicitations!